

Christoph Willibald Von Gluck's

Orpheus and Euridice

Tuesday, March 3, 1959

Wednesday, March 4, 1959

Meany Hall

8:00 p.m.

University of Washington

Opera Theatre

Orpheus and Euridice

by

Christoph Willibald Von Gluck

CAST, in order of appearance

Orpheus Emilie Berendsen, *Contralto*

Amor Dena Lampropulos, *Soprano*

A Blessed Spirit Vera Neufeld, *Soprano*

Euridice Iris Jones, *Soprano*

with

The University Singers

Gerald Kechley, Director

The Dancing Chorus of Mourners, Furies, Blessed Spirits,
Courtiers:

Marjorie Carrigan Marcia Sakamoto

Marguerite Dodds Belanger Phyllis Silver

Miriam Feldman

Mickey Gustin John Crumplar

Ann Herring Frank Ordway

Barbara Lacy Louie Roedel

Jane Micklesen Dave Samnerud

The action takes place in legendary Greece.

The Story...

Act I

R#1 (1014)
Orpheus and his friends lament the death of his bride, the beautiful Euridice, at her tomb. Touched by his grief, Amor, the God of Love, proposes to allow Orpheus to descend into the underworld to seek Euridice. There is one condition, however, if Orpheus is to have his wife back again in the realm of the living. If he is able to enter into the underworld and find Euridice, he must not look at her face or offer any explanation for his actions until they have recrossed the river Styx. If he should turn back to look upon her, she must return at once to the underworld. Implored the aid of the Gods, Orpheus sets out after his wife.

Act II

At the entrance to the underworld the furies attempt to frighten Orpheus, but soon they are moved by the beauty of his song to pity his grief. Completely subdued, they open the gates and allow Orpheus to continue his journey into the underworld.

INTERMISSION

Act III

R#2 (1021)
In the Elysian fields where the blessed spirits seek rest and contentment, Orpheus finds his bride. Taking her by the hand, but careful not to look upon her face, he gently leads her from the valley.

INTERMISSION

Act IV

Scene I

R#3 (1028)
As they approach the upper world, Euridice's wonder and unhappiness increase. She believes Orpheus no longer loves her because he has not looked at her. Orpheus begs her to follow without question but Euridice unhappily declares that she would prefer to remain among the dead than live without the love of her husband. She cries out in such sorrow that Orpheus, forgetting his promise, looks back upon her. Immediately she falls lifeless. Despairing, Orpheus is about to kill himself when Amor hears his song of pathos and is so deeply moved that he permits the two lovers to return together to the world above.

Scene II

R#4 (1035)
Before the temple of Amor, friends of Orpheus and Euridice rejoice over the return of the lovers and all sing the praises of the God of Love.

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC
OPERA THEATRE STAFF

Conductor and Director . . . Stanley Chapple
Stage Director . . . Ralph Rosinbum
Choreographer . . . Martha Nishitani
Repetiteur . . . Bill Clarke
Stage Manager . . . Howard Nelson

THE SCHOOL OF DRAMA
PRODUCTION STAFF

Courtesy of Glenn Hughes, Executive Director

Art Director and
Technical Supervisor . . . John Ashby Conway
Assistant Art Director . . . Alanson Davis
Technical Director . . . Warren C. Lounsbury
Costumier . . . James Crider
Scenery Construction . . . Tom Cook
Dick Montgomery
Dan Goodwin
Scene Painting . . . John Custer
Electrician . . . Nolan Dehner
Properties . . . Rolf Lystad

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